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**SHOOTER SENTENCED
SOLDIER'S DEATH
WAS DEVASTATING
FOR HIS FAMILY** {page 4}



**THE END
DEMI MOORE
FILES FOR
DIVORCE** {page 30}



HALIFAX

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Weekend, November 18-20, 2011
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News worth sharing.

Metro. Feature



▶ A polar bear rolls in the snow and mud outside Churchill, Man.

ELISHA DACEY/METRO WINNIPEG

Bear witness to climate change

Polar bears are on the front lines of climate change, and the strain is already starting to show. Metro Winnipeg managing editor Elisha Dacey spent three days in Churchill with Coca-Cola, the World Wildlife Fund and others to learn about the efforts being made to make sure polar bears don't disappear from the face of the overheating Earth. See more on pages 11-14.

Stabbing victim arrested

▶ Nineteen-year-old sent to hospital and later charged ▶ Unconnected to shooting

After some initial confusion, a hospitalized man was taken into police custody after being involved in a stabbing incident in Dartmouth on Thursday.

The stabbing took place just blocks away from a residence on Roleika Drive that was shot at on Wednesday night.

Halifax Regional Police spokesperson Const. Brian Palmer said police were investigating that scene on Thursday at 11:21 a.m. when they were called to investigate a fight at the intersection of Kennedy and Roleika drives.

When police arrived, they found blood in the parking lot next to 10 Kennedy Drive and on the front steps, and discovered a man who had been stabbed inside the

2 The number of shooting incidents that have occurred on Roleika Drive in the past eight months.

building. He was taken to hospital with injuries that police spokesperson Const. Brian Palmer said were non-life-threatening. An investigator later found a suspect and arrested him while recovering a knife believed to be involved in the attack.

But after some investigation, it was discovered that the purported suspect had acted in self-defence, and police arrested the injured man.

Police say there has so far been no indication that the stabbing is related to Wednesday's Roleika Drive shooting. ● ADRIAN LEE



WEEKEND SPECIALS FRI-SUN

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Opposition parties oppose FCA

While labour organizations lauded the introduction of first contract arbitration, Nova Scotia's opposition parties questioned the legislation's timing.

Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil said he doesn't see the problem the NDP are trying to fix with it.

"If you're one of those Nova Scotians who've felt the uncertainty of losing your job, this does nothing to reassure you," McNeil said on Thursday.

"What are they fixing? In order for you to be able to express something is good one way or the other, you have to know what kind of problem they're trying to fix. There is no problem here, we have had good labour relations."

Progressive Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie said his party will do whatever it can to fight against first contract arbitration.

"At this point in time, when our economy is weak, when we desperately need more jobs and more investment, in 2011, in Nova Scotia, this is a very bad idea," said Baillie. ● ALEX BOUTILLIER

NDP introduces first contract legislation

- Tories vow to fight labour legislation ► Grits wonder what it's trying to fix
- More categorically denies law will hurt business, kill jobs



ALEX BOUTILLIER
@METRONEWS.CA

The province is moving ahead with legislation that would allow for an arbitrator-imposed one-year contract between employers and newly-certified unions.

Labour Minister Marilyn More told reporters on Thursday that first contract arbitration will improve the already strong labour relations in Nova Scotia.

Under the proposed legislation, a conciliator would contact the employer and the new union within two weeks of certification, to provide information on the collective bargaining process. If bargaining fails, a conciliator is appointed to help both sides come to an agreement.

If an impasse occurs, or 90 days have expired from certification, the union or the employer can apply for arbitration. If both sides can't agree on the appointment of an arbitrator, the

No consensus

The Labour Management Review Committee, the committee comprised of union representatives and unionized employer representatives tasked by the NDP to review first contract arbitration, was unable to come to a consensus on the issue.

Labour Board can look into the negotiations and settle the agreement itself.

"There are several opportunities for the parties to arrive at a first contract on their own, with or without help from a conciliator or an arbitrator," More told reporters on Thursday.

"This legislation is designed to foster free collective bargaining leading to voluntary agreements, in a timely fashion that avoids a costly work stoppage."

First contract legislation has long been a goal of the labour movement in Nova Scotia. While in opposition, the NDP brought forward similar legislation twice in 2001 and 2006.



► Labour Minister Marilyn More speaks with reporters in this file photo from 2009.

Business groups, however, worry it will make unionization a less risky proposition for workers by removing the possibility of a costly lockout or drawn-out strike.

More deflected that criticism on Thursday, noting

that six other provinces and the federal government have adopted first contract arbitration since British Columbia first implemented it in 1974, and instances of union certification have not increased in those jurisdictions.

Second pet shop robbed

Another pet shop was robbed in Halifax on Thursday night.

A man walked into the Pets Unlimited store on Brownlow Avenue in Dart-

mouth at 6:50 p.m. on Thursday.

He was armed with a hand gun and had a mask over his face. He got a small amount of cash from

the clerk and left on foot.

No one was injured. The suspect is described as a five-foot-nine man with a dark complexion and an average build.

Jungle Pets in Dartmouth was robbed on Nov. 14 by a man with a hand gun and wearing a similar mask.

● JENNIFER TAPLIN

1

news


It's not down to the day, but researchers have gotten closer to pinpointing when most life on our planet became extinct. Scan the code for the story.

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State security officials in town

Decision-makers, academics and military officials from around the world are in Halifax this weekend to discuss global security and defence at the Halifax International Security Forum.

The third annual forum focuses on topics such as the uprising in Libya, the global economic crisis, NATO, and how the world has changed since Sept. 11, 2001.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay said he is proud the conference is in Halifax again.

"Canada is (in) a position today where the rest of the world will be looking to us for leadership, whether it be on the security front, on the economic front, on the energy front," he said.

According to the forum's organizers, the weekend event creates an atmosphere where attendees can learn from one another,

"Canada has and continues to play a very key role in world affairs. This is a demonstration of that."

DEFENCE MINISTER PETER MACKAY

share opinions and generate ideas and solutions to current global security problems and discuss future plans.

"I've attended a lot of conferences elsewhere where the discussion about North America tends to focus only on America," said MacKay.

U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak, former German Defence Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, and U.S. Senator John McCain and Senator Mark Udall will attend the conference. ● HEATHER GILLIS, FILES FROM ALEX BOUTILIER

Slain soldier's family tells court of suffering

► Cpl. Wilcox's second court martial
► Sentence from '09 overturned

The death of a military reservist who was fatally shot by a fellow soldier while they were serving in Afghanistan has left his family emotionally devastated, a court martial was told Thursday.

Members of Cpl. Kevin Megeney's family were asked to provide victim impact statements after a military judge found Matthew Wilcox, 26, guilty of criminal negligence causing death and negligent performance of a military duty.

A lawyer for Wilcox previously told the court martial that his client fired his weapon in self-defence as he reacted to what he thought was a threat inside



► Matthew Wilcox

a tent at Kandahar Airfield on March 6, 2007.

Karen Megeney recalled her shock on learning of her son's death.

"There's a hole and nothing can fill it," she said.

The victim's sister, Lisa Dawn Megeney, broke down in tears as she told the court she was devastated by her "baby brother's" death. THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Karen and Dexter Megeney, parents of the late Cpl. Kevin Megeney, leave a military courtroom on Thursday in Halifax.

Budget released in blocks easier to understand: Minister

Finance Minister Graham Steele said releasing the province's fall capital budget bit-by-bit is to better inform the public of government investment in their regions, not for political gain.

Over the past week, sev-

eral NDP MLAs have made announcements in their ridings, detailing six-figure investments from the province's capital budget.

It's a departure from the province's first fall capital budget, released in full by Steele last year.

Steele says the government still plans to announce the full budget, likely in the last week of November or the first week of December. He said the government feels it's "better for everyone" to let people know what

investments are being made in their communities.

"This year, rather than releasing the big capital plan all at once, which is hundreds of millions of dollars, dozens or hundreds of individual

projects, we wanted to space it out and make sure people know," Steele said.

Yesterday, Pam Birdsall announced \$750,000 for museum repairs in her constituency of Lunenburg. The day before, Leonard Preyra an-

nounced \$2.5 million for the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia in his constituency. On Tuesday, Health Minister Maureen MacDonald announced \$420,000 to expand renal dialysis at the QEII Health Centre.

● ALEX BOUTILIER



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**SHOPPERS
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Energy minister dodges questions on board dispute

ALEX BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

Energy Minister Charlie Parker refused to answer opposition questions on the dispute between the auditor general and the Canada-Nova Scotia Off-shore Petroleum Board yesterday.

At the legislature, Parker was asked a number of

times to comment on his department's response to auditor general Jacques Lapointe's abandoned audit of the board.

Lapointe said the CNSOPB was acting at the behest of ExxonMobil Canada and EnCana Corporation — the two companies the board regulates. CNSOPB CEO Stuart Pinks denies that

claim, saying federal provincial legislation prevents him from turning over the documents.

Liberal MLA Andrew Younger asked Parker if he was concerned Lapointe's report called his department's oversight of the board "negligible."

Parker punted the question to Finance Minister Graham Steele, the

minister responsible for the auditor general.

The department of energy was provided a draft version of Lapointe's report, which indicated the auditor general abandoned his audit after the CNSOPB refused to provide necessary documents.

The department responded that they would

look into legislative changes to ensure Lapointe got the information he needed. But outside the chamber yesterday, Parker backed away from that.

"There is a dispute resolution mechanism in place (in the Auditor General's Act), and we think it's the real solution to the problem here," said

Parker, referring to a section in the act that may allow the auditor general to seek a Supreme Court ruling on the matter.

"That was several weeks ago, that we responded to the auditor general. And now we think the best mechanism is to allow the dispute resolution mechanism to play out."

Shipyard hiring outlined

► Irving invested \$90M in the Halifax shipyard between 2006-2011

HEATHER GILLIS
@METRONEWS.CA

Scott Jamieson, Irving's new vice president of programs, outlined on Thursday the process Irving will use in hiring suppliers for the \$25 billion shipbuilding contract.

Jamieson plans to have a website or registry set up by the end of this year for those interested in being a supplier to Irving throughout the shipbuilding process.

That way, he said, companies can register and check off what they are interested in supplying.

But Jamieson, who talked to reporters after a luncheon speech at the Halifax Club on Thursday, couldn't confirm specific details about site or the selection and tender process Irving will use to acquire suppliers.

"We realized everybody's really excited and keen to get involved," he said. "We're five weeks into a 30-year program, so at the moment we're gathering that information so we can best put that into action when the time is right."

Jamieson believes Irving was successful in the shipbuilding contract because they delivered a good quality



► Scott Jamieson, Irving's vice president of programs, talks to reporters at the Halifax Club yesterday.

proposal and good value. "So clearly, that's the way we'll be evaluating who (are) the right people to be our suppliers and our partners going forward," he said.

Jamieson said Irving has just started negotiating the main contract, or umbrella agreement, with the government.

"What we're keen to do

is establish the principles with the federal government and make sure we understand what they're looking for and what they need," Jamieson said.

He hopes to sign the first contract for the Arctic off-shore patrol ships in 2012.

"As soon as we sign the contract for that we're going to be looking for our major suppliers."

Protester pleads not guilty

An Occupy Nova Scotia protester pleaded not guilty Thursday to a pair of charges laid after police shut down the month-long demonstration in downtown Halifax.

Miles Howe, 34, was arrested Friday as officers dismantled tents belonging to protesters at Victoria Park. He was charged with obstruction of

justice when he refused to leave his tent.

The following day, Howe was arrested again at Grand Parade, a public square that had been the protesters' initial campsite. Howe went to the square to protest the city's decision to tear down the tents.

He was charged with violating a condition of his release stipulating that he can't go to public parks.

Howe is to return to court Nov. 22 to set a date for his trial.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Search on for missing woman

Police are looking for help locating 20-year-old Melissa Dawn Peacock.

She was reported missing on Nov. 9 when her family and friends could not contact her.

Peacock, who has been known to go off on her own but never for this long, was last seen on Nov. 7 at her home in



► Melissa Dawn Peacock

Dartmouth.

Peacock is described as five-foot-one, white, 105 pounds, with brown curly, mid-length hair and hazel eyes.

HEATHER GILLIS

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CLASS-ACTION LAWSUIT

No ruling yet on vet benefits

A judge has reserved decision in a far-reaching case into whether Ottawa has the right to claw back disabled veterans' benefits.

More than a dozen veterans were in federal court in Halifax Thursday to hear final arguments in one part of their ongoing class-action lawsuit.

The veterans are suing the federal government because they say their

long-term disability benefits are being reduced by the amount of their disability pensions.

Their lawyers say the disability pension should not be considered income and not clawed back from their monthly payments. But the lawyer for the federal government says much of it will hinge on the definition of income, which she insists includes the benefits.

Some veterans say they are losing \$1,300 a month in benefit payments and are only getting about 30 per cent of their salary before they were released from the military. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

1 person likely 3-time flasher: Cops

In the third such incident in the last week, a man exposed himself on Wednesday night to a 22-year-old woman on the Dalhousie University campus.

The woman was walking across Sexton

campus when a man started talking to her. When she turned around, she found that a white man, between 18 and 24 years old with pimples on his face, had exposed himself.

● METRO

Fire rips through apartment

► Wednesday's late-night blaze caused 'extensive' damage to empty house
► South End Diner also damaged ► Investigation ongoing to find fire source



ADRIAN LEE
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

About 25 Halifax firefighters worked into early Thursday morning to put out a Barrington Street fire that scorched a three-floor apartment and damaged a neighbouring diner.

At about 10 p.m. on Wednesday, fire crews arrived at an empty building at 1124 Barrington St. Heavy fire was roaring through the first and second floors and extending into the third floor and the wall cavities.

"I saw windows breaking up and a lot of smoke," said Alicia Jones, who saw the fire raging when she arrived at her Kent Street home on Wednesday night.

Kent Street closed down to road traffic but Jones

"The firefighters, I will praise them, they did a good job. That fire had the potential to be worse than it was."

DAVE MELDRUM, HALIFAX REGIONAL FIRE SPOKESPERSON

was able to get through.

"I talked to police and they said they didn't know if they were going to evacuate us," she said.

A brick wall prevented the fire from entering the abutting South End Diner, though there was some damage from the smoke as well as from firefighters' precautionary efforts to open up walls. There was no damage to a Kent Street house that was also touching the flat.

No one was injured.



► A fire inspector steps outside of a Barrington Street house yesterday following a late-night fire on Wednesday night.

"The older-style construction has a lot of hidden spaces in it, and as is normal in downtown Halifax, the buildings are close together," said Halifax Regional Fire spokesman

Dave Meldrum. "So the firefighters took action. They had some equipment set up to prevent fire from spreading if it did get bigger and started to move to the other buildings."

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MERSEY MILL

Premier meets with Bowater workers

Premier Darrell Dexter says he's lost sleep over the situation workers found themselves in at the Bowater Mersey mill outside Liverpool.

Dexter met with workers at the mill yesterday, a day after the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union Local 141 voted 51.7 per cent in favour of accepting management's ultimatum to cut close to half their work force.

"I don't think you could describe in any way that they're happy," Dexter said yesterday evening. "But they recognize that there are things that

are going to have to be done."

Dexter said the province will work with the mill workers who are soon to be out of a job, helping them with the transition.

"If they need re-skilling or retraining, there's services available there for them. Some of them will be looking at possibly returning to community college to upgrade a skill or to acquire a new one. Those are things that we can help out with," said Dexter.

The premier said that there's nothing "just or fair" about the situation, but that it simply is what it is.

The mill's owner, Rolute Forest Ltd. (formerly AbitibiBowater), has made no guarantees that the mill will remain open, despite the concessions from their workers.

● ALEX BOUTILIER

Food stand booted for Tim Horton's expansion

► Restaurant received letter giving notice of eviction at end of month



ADRIAN LEE
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

A longtime food stand in the heart of Scotia Square's food court is being forced out by the end of the month, owners say.

Eva Sayde, who runs PG's restaurant with her husband George, says they are good tenants who have always paid their monthly lease over the past 21 years.

But in April, she received a letter from Crombie REIT, which leases out space in Scotia Square, giving notice of eviction to PG's so that a Tim Horton's can relocate into the space.

"My husband and I, we've been at it for so long, we've worked hard to

"I like Tim Horton's, but they're everywhere. There's only one PG's."

WENDY TURNER, CUSTOMER OF PG'S OF 21 YEARS

make it work, and all of a sudden they don't want us here."

Despite receiving a final notice demanding the food stand leave by Nov. 30, PG's has no plans to start moving out. But Sayde says she doesn't know what she'll do if they're forced out.

"We're getting older. We can't go to another place to start from scratch."

Sayde says the stand isn't being offered another space in the food court, and they sent a petition with over 600 customers'



► Eva Sayde, co-owner of PG's in Scotia Square, serves up food for her customers on Thursday.

signatures to Crombie REIT. She hasn't heard back.

Alexandra Cygal, a Tim Horton's spokesperson, said that the mall's landlord asked the company to relocate their current Sco-

tia Square franchise so an entrance could be built.

She said the landlord then offered this location, and that Tim Horton's was unaware of any conflicts with previous tenants.

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News in brief

Charges laid in break-ins

CRIME. A 48-year-old Dartmouth man was charged Thursday in connection with a number of break-and-enters in New Minas, Greenwood, Bridgewater and Tantallon from September to November.

Police searched the residence of Dennis Cecil Johnson and found stolen property, which was believed to be from retail stores.

Johnson is charged with possession of stolen property, break-and-enter tools and marijuana, as well as break-and-enter, thefts and breaching court orders. ● **HEATHER GILLIS**

The show must go on

MUSIC. The National Arts Centre orchestra said its

Charlottetown show would take place as scheduled Thursday despite a ferry delay that stranded instruments in Newfoundland.

A NAC spokeswoman said symphonies in P.E.I. and Nova Scotia lent double basses, cellos and timpani drums.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Drivers caught speeding

CRIME. Police in Pictou County charged two drivers for excessive speeding in two separate incidents within one hour midday Thursday.

A 22-year-old man was clocked driving 172 km/h on Highway 104 near Priestville. A 27-year-old driver was also clocked driving at over 200 km/h.

Both drivers received a seven-day licence suspension, had their vehicles impounded, and were fined \$2,412.41 each.

● **HEATHER GILLIS**

Happy on the job? Meh

► Polling finds growing job dissatisfaction among HRM employees

BY THE NUMBERS

RICK EMBERLEY
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

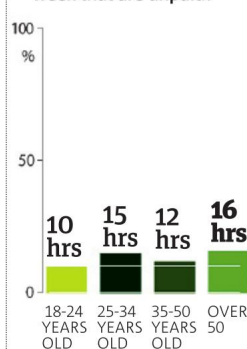


Our recent survey suggests that 24 per cent of adult residents describe themselves as retired. Yet the same number of respondents tell us they are holding down more than one job.

Such is the turmoil in the workplace these days. Some of us living in HRM are leaving the workforce while others are scrambling to find permanent work.

The research also shows

On average, how many hours do you work per week that are unpaid?



that an increasing number of employees are dissatisfied with their jobs. Forty-three per cent of respondents gave only fair to good scores when asked to rate their level of job satisfaction.

We probed further into

the issues that are having an impact on satisfaction in the workplace and found concerns over pension plans, vacation time and training opportunities contribute to dissatisfaction to the greatest degree.

Only half of employees are satisfied with their pension plan and a slightly larger 54 per cent feel they receive sufficient vacation time. Despite this, almost 78 per cent say they enjoy their workplace environment and 72 per cent feel they have a good relationship with their boss.

Well then, are they planning to stick around? Lots won't. A quarter say they plan to change their job within the next two years and a further 32 per cent expect to do so in the next five years or so.

Someone better start paying attention to em-

ployee retention programs, otherwise the costs will skyrocket.

One of the more interesting findings in the survey suggests that the under-35 age group is 25 per cent more likely to express dissatisfaction and 40 per cent more likely to be looking for new opportunities in the short term. Almost 40 per cent of this group also expect to leave the area to pursue their careers.

Rick Emberley is senior counsel with the polling firm MQO Research. He has conducted public-opinion research in the region for over 25 years.



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USA

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Orlando Family Special Air + 7 Nights from **\$499**⁰
+ taxes & fees \$138

INCLUDES accom near major attractions. Price per person based on family of 4. **ADD** 5-day Walt Disney World Resort Magic Your Way Base Ticket from \$282/adult, \$261/child (ages 3-9).

Miami Air + 3 Nights from **\$689**
+ taxes & fees \$142

INCLUDES resort-style accom along Miami Beach. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from \$44 per night. **ADD** Everglades airboat from \$68.

New York Air + 2 Nights 4-Star from **\$784**
+ taxes & fees \$124

INCLUDES luxury Manhattan accom. **ADD** double decker tour from \$59.

Maui Family Special Air + 7 Nights from **\$939**⁰
+ taxes & fees \$131

INCLUDES Kihei 1-bedroom, 2-bathroom condo style accom. Price per person based on family of 4. **ADD** Haleakala, central Maui and Lao valley tour from \$105/adult, \$63/child (ages 2-11).

Canada

Montreal New Year's Eve

Air + 3 Nights
\$459
from
+ taxes & fees \$150

INCLUDES downtown accom.

Charlottetown New Year's Eve Family Special, 3 Nights 4-Star from **\$134**⁰
+ taxes & fees included

INCLUDES central accom steps from the boardwalk and shops of Peake's Wharf. Price per person based on family of 4.

Quebec City Winter Carnival Air + 3 Nights 4-Star from **\$489**
+ taxes & fees \$202

INCLUDES elegant accom in Old Quebec minutes from shopping and attractions. **ADD** Beupre coast cruise from \$71.

Toronto Christmas Air + 3 Nights 4-Star from **\$514**
+ taxes & fees \$158

INCLUDES luxury accom near Yorkville and the entertainment district over Christmas.

Mont St Anne Air + 3 Nights + Lift Pass from **\$749**
+ taxes & fees \$202

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ELISHA DACEY/METRO

Arctic dwellers at risk



► Polar bears are the ultimate symbol of climate change ► The animals are a step away from being classified as endangered ► Why saving the bears means saving the planet ...

Bearly
There



ELISHA
DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

If there's any animal on Earth that could inspire people to engage in preventing man-made climate change, the polar bear is it.

Majestic, powerful and deadly, the cuddly-looking bears are under direct threat from a warming

planet, and they're already showing the symptoms.

"What you'll find in the short term is that polar bears will have to turn to other (foods)," said Dr. Pete Ewing, a marine scientist with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Last week, for example, scientists came across a group of about 15 polar bears eating rotten grain destined for the landfill.

"There's a population of polar bears here that are desperate. They haven't been able to put on enough

\$518

The amount of money that polar bears are worth to each Canadian annually as a symbol. That's more than the bald eagle is worth to Americans.

energy, and we're going to see more of that."

Tourists and Arctic wildlife guides have noticed a decline in the

weight of bears. They even found a bear that had died of starvation recently.

As the summer ice in the Arctic melts at a faster rate, and winter ice comes in more slowly, the polar bear population declines. And the more it declines, the more scientists and groups like the WWF worry.

Just last week, the Canadian government classified polar bears as a "species at risk." That's one step away from endangered.

Ewing said scientific models show there's no

stopping the inevitable decline of summer ice, so scientists are trying to figure out where the polar bear has the best chance of survival. In the meantime, people need to start reversing the damage they've caused to the Arctic through the consumption of fossil fuels — but they shouldn't be overwhelmed.

"There have been massive changes in our society over the last few hundred years," said Ewing. "There's no reason we can't change again."

Arctic research

► The WWF has been funding polar-bear research in Churchill on and off for the past 30 years, said Dr. Pete Ewing, but the Canadian government has not been maintaining its level of funding in recent years.

► "Arctic research can be difficult, it's expensive," said Ewing. "But for an Arctic nation like Canada ... the World Wildlife Fund has been able to step in and help when (the Canadian government) has not."

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Wayward bears do time in jail

- Humans, bears coexist thanks to unique program
- Each year about 35 bears are put in 'jail' then lifted by helicopter to a location 60 kilometres away



ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

When your town's biggest nuisance can kill you with a casual swipe of a paw tipped with razor-sharp claws, grabbing the nearest shotgun when confronted with one seems a prudent idea.

But that thinking led to the deaths of dozens of polar bears in and around Churchill, Man., a few decades ago.

"Basically, if a bear came into town, it got shot," said Manitoba Conservation's Bob Windsor, who has helped remove about 100 bears from Churchill over the past three years. "That was not acceptable."

The Polar Bear Alert program changed all that, said Windsor.

The program is simple: local residents call the Polar Bear Alert Line to tell conservation officers of an approaching bear. A humane trap is set, and the bear is taken to "Polar Bear Jail." From there, they're later lifted by helicopter to an area away from the town.

The Polar Bear Alert Line

What happens to bears in jail?



Polar bears are incredibly strong. Once they're captured, the bear trap is chained to the cell they'll be held in, so that they won't push the trap right out of the facility.

Once held, they are tranquilized and researchers assess the bears' condition. They

are tagged and tattooed so Manitoba Conservation can see whether a bear returns.

Conditions inside the jail are cool and sparse. There is as little human interaction with bears as possible.

Bears are not fed. They can go months without eating, and if they're fed they tend to come back to the facility once released.

After a quarantine period, bears are tranquilized and then carefully wrapped up in a net so their heads and ear tags don't get tangled. The net is attached to a helicopter and the bear is taken to a safe location.

Researchers make sure the bear is alert before leaving the area, as wolves have been known to prey on a groggy bear.

● ELISHA DACEY

is manned at all times.

Windsor said the program, while simple, has been extremely effective, cutting down on the number of polar bear deaths.

"We haven't had a fatality (from a polar bear) in the town of Churchill since 1983," said Windsor. "When I look at it that way, it makes it all worthwhile."

ELISHA DACEY/METRO



► Manitoba Conservation officers watch as a polar bear is lifted by a helicopter.



► Polar bears are under direct threat from climate change. Melting ice means they can't hunt their main source of food.

ELISHA DACEY/METRO



► A polar bear is transported far from town.



► Polar bears are now classified as at risk.



ELISHA DACEY/METRO

Coke, WWF team up for Arctic Home

Fifteen years ago, groups like the World Wildlife Fund did not partner with groups like Coca-Cola.

The ultimate American brand, Coca-Cola's perceived cultural pervasiveness and arrogance meant they were the enemy. But not anymore.

Coca-Cola Canada president Nicolaos Koumettis said the company has actively tried to shed its image of taking over the world to one that preserves it over the past decade.

"What happened is that we all learned, and that includes the WWF ... that if you want to achieve something big, you have to work in partnership.

"We've worked with the WWF for many years on water conservation, and now it was time to take it to a new level."

Arctic Home is a major campaign launched by the WWF and Coca-Cola to raise money for polar-bear research in the Arctic. Koumettis said Coca-Cola will donate \$2 million over the next four years toward that research.



ELISHA DACEY/METRO

► Arctic Home is a new partnership between the WWF and Coca-Cola designed to generate awareness of the plight of the polar bear.

Gerald Butts, president and CEO of WWF Canada, said working with corporate partners who want to make the world better can affect the most change.

"In general, you can make things happen a lot quicker with companies, especially on big issues," said Butts, adding that Coke is one of the world's biggest users of water, sugar, aluminum and other

commodities.

"If they decide they are only going to buy goods that are procured and grown in a certain way, then we can change the supply chain overnight. We could lobby 100 governments for 50 years and never get them to change."

To promote the campaign, Coca-Cola changed its can from the traditional red to white with silver po-

lar bears.

"It wasn't a hard decision," said Koumettis.

Donations can be made at iCoke.ca. Coca-Cola will match donations from North America up to \$1 million, in addition to money already pledged.

● ELISHA DACEY



To make a donation, visit iCoke.ca

Polar bears essential to Churchill: Mayor

There are arguably only two industries in Churchill, Man.: Shipping and tourism. And both are under threat.

The economy over the past five years means tourism is down overall, said Mike Spence, Churchill's mayor and owner of Wat'chee Lodge. "Tourism has been down over the last couple of years due to the economy," said Spence. "It's understandable. People have less money to spend."

Churchill currently has a stable population of about 900 people, which doubles during bear season. However, Churchill's population used to be

Tourist draws

► Tens of thousands of people flood to Churchill every year, mostly to see the polar bears.

► Excursions to see the northern lights in winter, birds in spring and beluga whales in summer also draw tourists to the town.

much bigger.

"I grew up here when it had 6,000 people," said Spence. "Tourism wasn't even on the drawing board."

The population dwindled, however, when the

Canadian Armed Forces moved out, so citizens had to start looking for new ways to bring money back into the town.

"Tourism began to be kicked into gear because we had more bears coming through (the town) because the military wasn't keeping them out."

In the late 1980s, tourism exploded. Since then, the polar bear has become synonymous with Churchill.

"When you're tagged with the moniker The Polar Bear Capital of the World, there's a lot of pride in that," said Spence.

● ELISHA DACEY

Ultimate logo



Polar bears have been used as a logo for everything from diamonds to sports teams.

► The polar bear has been the official symbol of Coca-Cola since 1922. It started with an ad campaign in France and grew from there.

► Canadian company Polar Bear Diamonds uses the bear as its official symbol.

► The Hudson Bay Helicopters uses a polar bear in its logo.



ELISHA DACEY/METRO

Value of summer ice

► Ice is hugely important in the life cycle of polar bears, even in summer ► Here are 6 reasons why:



ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

1. Polar bears' favourite food is ring seals, and ring seals are hunted from the ice. If the ice has disappeared, the bear is forced onto shore, where seals can't be hunted. When the ice freezes over in winter, there is little to eat.

2. With fewer seals to feast on, the female polar bears don't gain enough weight. While there may be other sources of food available, the fatty ring seals provide a higher caloric content.

3. If female polar bears

don't put on enough weight, they are less likely to become pregnant or carry cubs to term.

4. Fewer pregnancies means there are fewer polar bears.

5. Polar bears also prefer to avoid each other. Less sea ice in the summer-time means bears will have more frequent encounters with other bears and less space to roam.

6. The loss of summer ice is already having an effect on polar-bear populations. Bears are resorting to eating nutritionally deficient foods such as kelp, and instances of cannibalism are on the rise.

Melting ice taking its toll

The melting of Arctic ice in the summer will be both an economic blessing and a curse, says marine scientist Dr. Peter Ewing.

• Warmer summer months mean longer shipping seasons for the port of Churchill, Man. Passages that were previously ice-covered will become much easier to navigate. More shipments means more jobs. It also means the easier shipment of necessary goods to Northern Canada.

• Local Inuit will see a vast cultural change. Peoples who hunt and trap to feed their fami-

lies will see their traditional culture evolve as bears, seals and other Arctic animals disappear. The government will have to deal with an entire culture that can no longer support itself.

• People do not understand the role the Arctic plays in regulating weather, said Ewing. A melting Arctic means the Earth will heat up even faster, leading to more violent weather and flooding, which will result in more damage to cities and infrastructure, not to mention the loss of life. The total bill for all this chaos is impossible to estimate accurately, but some reports have put it at trillions of dollars.

● ELISHA DACEY



► Polar bears are being forced onto shore, where they can't hunt due to retreating sea ice.

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Activists, cops clash in NYC

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Occupy London group said no one had left by the deadline, and marked its passing with a rally. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

[illegible]

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Deadly. Storms

► Gas pumps at a Citgo Mart on US 64 are destroyed Thursday in Davidson County, N.C.



THE ENTERPRISE, SONNY HEDGECOCK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Five dead as
tornadoes rip
U.S. Southeast

At least five people were killed and dozens injured as a storm system spawning several possible tornadoes moved across the U.S. Southeast. Suspected tornadoes were reported Wednesday in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and South Carolina. Dozens of homes and buildings were damaged, and thousands of people were without power as trees and power lines were downed.

MP not sorry for profane tweets

► Controversy has resulted in more exposure for
NDP's Martin ► Followers on Twitter jump to 3,000

Longtime New Democrat MP Pat Martin says he's not sorry for unleashing a string of profanity on the social media site Twitter.

Martin dropped a few F- and S-bombs Wednesday night after the Conservative government shut down debate on a budget bill.

"This is a (expletive) disgrace ... closure again. And on the Budget," Martin tweeted.

"There's not a democracy in the world that would tolerate this jackboot (expletive)."

The comments set off a stir in the Twitterverse after they were retweeted by some of Martin's 1,600 fol-



► NDP MP Pat Martin

Party support

- Interim NDP Leader Nycole Turmel appeared to defend Martin's actions.
- "His language was not appropriate and could have been offensive to some," Turmel said in a written statement. "That said, the Conservatives' actions are not appropriate in a democracy and offensive to all Canadians."

him, Martin replied with "eat my shorts."

Martin, who represents the riding of Winnipeg Centre, said he committed no foul.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saskatchewan Mounties want to silence fake Twitter account

Mounties in Saskatchewan want to shut down a fake Twitter handle that someone is using in their name.

Sgt. Paul Dawson, media relations officer for Saskatchewan, said it was a surprise on Wednesday when reporters asked if @SaskRCMP is official.

"In this particular case they're using our name and our logo as well and perpetrating themselves to be an official RCMP site, and, in fact, they obviously aren't," Dawson said in an interview Thursday.

But he doesn't believe there will be much confusion about the fake Twitter account. "We've already contacted the folks at Twitter and let them know about this so we're going to go through those channels," Dawson said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Party Responsibly. Captain's Orders.

Benetton faces Vatican wrath

► Clothing manufacturer says it is sorry image of pope kissing imam offended the faithful

The Vatican is taking legal action against the Benetton clothing company to prevent the circulation of an advertisement featuring a fake photo montage of Pope Benedict XVI kissing a top Egyptian imam on the lips.

The Vatican said Thursday the image is "offensive not only to the dignity of the pope and the Catholic Church, but also to the sensibilities of believers."

Benetton withdrew the ad immediately after its debut Wednesday once the Vatican denounced it as an unacceptable provocation.

Benetton had said its "Unhate" campaign was aimed at fostering tolerance, but the Vatican's daily newspaper Thursday called it "an insult to believers in the name of profit."

The campaign's fake photos feature a half-dozen purported political

Strategy

► Shock ads have long been a part of Benetton's publicity strategy, with photographer Oliviero Toscani's famous campaigns for them featuring death row inmates and people dying of AIDS.

nemeses in lip-locked embraces, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Il and South Korean President Lee Myung-bak.

The photo of the pope kissing Sheik Ahmed el-Tayeb of Cairo's al-Azhar institute, the pre-eminent theological school of Sunni Islam, was on Benetton's website all day Wednesday but was pulled about an hour after the Vatican's protest.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► People walk past Benetton's "Unhate" campaign at a shop Thursday.

MICHEL EULER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New low: Pay extra for fuel or don't fly

Airlines have already begun charging for food, drinks, seat assignments and baggage. Now one is demanding that passengers cough up extra cash on board for fuel.

Hundreds of passengers travelling from India to Britain were stranded for six hours in Vienna when their Comtel Air flight stopped for fuel on Tuesday. The charter service asked

them to kick in more than £20,000 (\$32,306 US) to fund the rest of the flight to Birmingham, England.

Britain's Channel 4 news broadcast video showing a Comtel cabin crew member

telling passengers: "We need some money to pay the fuel, to pay the airport, to pay everything we need. If you want to go to Birmingham, you have to pay."

Some passengers said

they were sent off the plane to cash machines in Vienna to raise the money.

Bhupinder Kandra, the airline's majority shareholder, told the Associated Press from Vienna that trav-

el agents had taken the passengers' money before the planes left but had not passed it on to the airline.

"This is not my problem," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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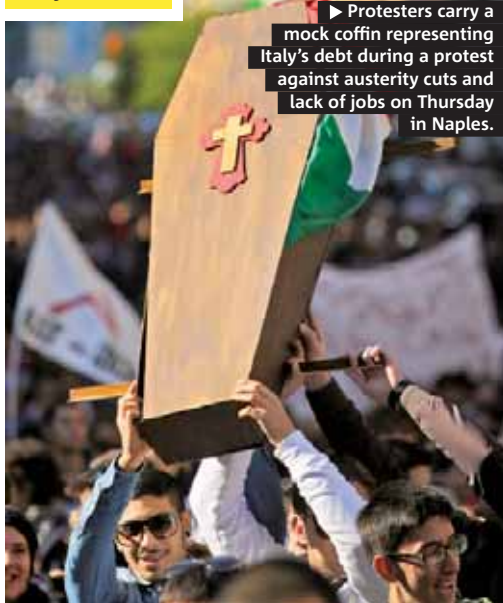
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Italy. Protest



► Protesters carry a mock coffin representing Italy's debt during a protest against austerity cuts and lack of jobs on Thursday in Naples.

CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY IMAGES

Debt discontent in Naples

Thousands of students took to the streets of Naples to protest against the lack of opportunity for future employment and impending austerity cuts by Italy's new prime minister Mario Monti and his recently-appointed cabinet.

U.S. workers expect to retire later: study

Workers are growing to accept the idea that they may be working long after they've become eligible for senior discounts.

Yet rather than fixate on their target retirement age, they're increasingly focused on how much money they'll need to retire, according to a new

U.S. survey by Wells Fargo & Co.

This shift is coupled with their growing frustration that they're not saving enough, and the reality that many haven't created a detailed retirement plan.

One of the striking results of the survey re-

leased Wednesday is that 25 per cent of the respondents said they'll need to work until at least age 80 because they will not have enough money to retire comfortably.

Even those who plan on retiring expect they may continue working in some capacity and for var-

ious reasons: About 75 per cent said they expect to work in their retirement years; about 39 per cent said they will need to work to afford things they want or to maintain their lifestyle; and another 35 per cent say they'll work because they want to.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

TSX



- 258.93
(11,915.43)

Dollar



- 0.51¢
(97.25¢ US)

Oil



- \$3.77 US
(\$98.82 US)

Natural gas



\$3.41
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THE METRO LIST

MIKE BENHAIM
METRO



1 Adult education. U.S. Prez Barack Obama raised eyebrows at the APEC summit in Hawaii with his comments regarding China's economic responsibility.

Obama stated that now that they're a full-grown economic power, it is time to "Act like a grownup." China's delegates responded by saying, "I know you are, but what am I?"

2 Stick it to da man! An Ontario man drove his car through the front doors of Waterloo Regional Police headquarters last Sunday. Police believe it was deliberate because, instead of stopping, he continued driving around the reception desk before crashing into a vending machine. No one was hurt, but the man's Twix bar did remain lodged on the coil dispenser, and his change was never returned. That is frustrating.

3 Where my drugs at? Apparently Canada is experiencing some dubious medication shortages. Health Canada says their only concern is drug safety, while distribution is left to the pharmaceutical companies. The reason for the shortage is unknown as is the extent and impact because our government does not collect such data. To be fair though, the shortage will not affect the majority of Canadians. It's really just the sick people.

4 Hands off. Brief note in case of ambiguity: Showering with your 11-year-old son at the gym — fine. Showering with someone else's 11-year-old son — NOT FINE! Any questions, Penn State?

5 Smooth Criminal. Last week, Michael Jackson's personal physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter for negligence believed to have caused the singer's death in 2009. He faces up to four years in prison while Michael's plastic surgeons get off scot-free.

6 Too much too soon. Seventeen-year-old Justin Bieber recently dished out 100,000 pounds on a new Range Rover with a custom sound system worth 50,000 pounds. This is just one of many for Justin, including a Batman-themed Cadillac and a Ferrari, which he recently smashed. When I was 17, my parents grounded me for a fender-bender in my mom's 1978 Monte Carlo. Just saying.

7 In yo' face. Just when we thought they were close to an agreement, the NBA lockout hit an impasse this week. With a shortened season looming, millionaires on both sides could not arrive at an answer to the question "How many millions is too many millions?" The likely answer now is "No millions at all."

8 Sweet Jesus. Canadian comic Russell Peters will perform a nativity sketch in his Christmas special, which airs on CTV and The Comedy Network in December. He has chosen Pamela Anderson to play the Virgin Mary, which is funny because it marks the first time her name and the word "virgin" have ever appeared next to each other in the same sentence.

9 A sad farewell. Canadian comic Stewart Silver passed away suddenly at age 44 this week. A national Yuk Yuk's mainstay for the past two decades, fellow Montrealese, dear friend and all-around good guy will be sorely missed. On behalf of the entire comedic community, I offer our condolences to his family. We thank you for the laughs. R.I.P.

More from Mike Benhaim at metronews.ca/backbeat



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Have you supported a Mo?

YES, MANY, MANY MOS

44%

28%

NO, I'LL DONATE TO PREVENT MOS

NOT YET, WAITING FOR HAIRIER CHOICES

28%

Letters

Prevention and rehabilitation, education and jobs, and general economic and social equality have contributed to a drop in crime in Canada over the last several decades.

Any way you look at it, crime in Canada is dropping, maybe not enough, maybe not everywhere, but it is still dropping. But Steven Harper and the Conservatives don't seem to be able to read scientific reports and in any event would like to reverse this nasty trend. And while the Harper government does not possess a vision of Canada (all successful good governments do), they do want a more expensive Canada: one with more crime, more criminals, more prisons and less of everything that has been contributing to a drop in the crime rate — including jobs.

The Harper government, if they really are keen on saving taxpayer dollars and being tough on crime, need to listen to Texans who have already made this socially and economically and politically costly mistake.

JASON MABBOTT
TORONTO



photo of the day

PHOTO CHALLENGE

This photo titled Yanomi was submitted to the Moments of my Life category by Reed from Winnipeg.



Metro invites its readers to join the Metro Global Photo Challenge — running in 100 cities on four continents — to win fantastic prizes and worldwide recognition. Enter your digital photos at metrophotchallenge.com. The contest runs until Nov. 22. As well as a chance to win a trip to any city Metro publishes, one submission will also be featured here daily.

WEIRD NEWS

Flight almost gets flushed

A jammed lock on an airplane bathroom door caused anxious moments for the pilots aboard a flight from North Carolina to New York City.

The captain told air traffic controllers he accidentally got stuck on the LaGuardia Airport-bound Chautauqua Airlines flight from Asheville on Wednesday night.

When a passenger with an unfamiliar accent tried to alert the co-pilot in the cockpit, the co-pilot became alarmed and notified air traffic

controllers, according to a recording of the radio exchange from the website LiveATC.net.

"The captain has disappeared in the back and I have someone with a thick foreign accent trying to access the cockpit right now, and I've got to deal with this situation," the co-pilot says.

A controller tells him to consider declaring an emergency.

The captain eventually got himself free from the lavatory. He told controllers there was no threat.

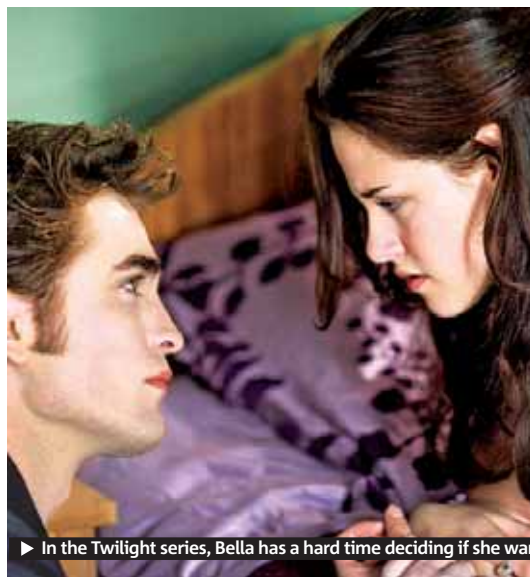
"The captain — myself — went back to the lavatory and the door latched ... and I had to fight my way out of it with my body to get the door open," the captain says. "There is no issue, no threat."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

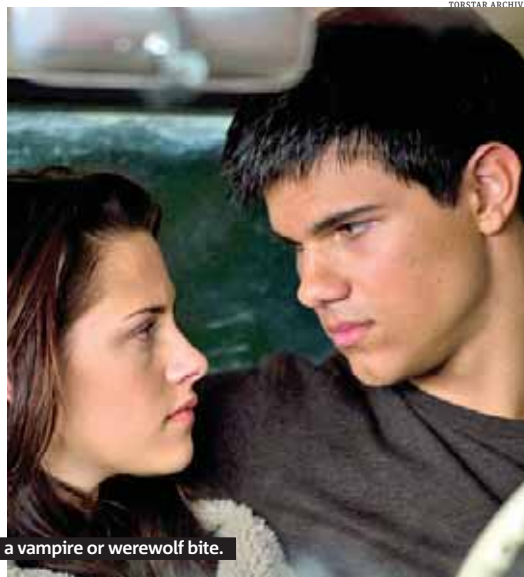
Synopsis

Team Werewolf: Need some convincing to get hairy with Richard? Ginger Snaps and Dog Soldiers expand on the werewolf story. The Howling and An American Werewolf in London both contain Reagan-era thrills. And, of course, no lycanthropic list would be complete without The Wolf Man.

Team Vampire: Looking for a good vampire flick to sink your teeth into? Coppola's Bram Stoker's Dracula has thrills and atmosphere. But a more unusual choice would have to be Shadow of the Vampire, one creepy flick. For over-the-top wild fun, nothing beats Nic Cage as a reluctant vampire in Vampire's Kiss.



► In the Twilight series, Bella has a hard time deciding if she wants a vampire or werewolf bite.



2 scene

Scene in brief



Ricky Gervais is returning as host of the Golden Globes. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced through Twitter that Gervais will take his third turn as Globes host in January. Gervais left some wondering if he'd be back after his performance at this year's show, when he took pointed jabs at Hollywood stars and the HFPA.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Woody Allen revealed: Documentary illuminates the elusive genius

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN

SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



A 'biting' battle

► Richard Crouse and Mark Breslin pick supernatural sides in an age-old battle

Richard: Mark, on the occasion of the release of Breaking Dawn, the next-to-last in the Twilight saga, it's time we finally debated the burning question on the lips of every TwiHard — who would win in a fair fight between a vampire and werewolf? I'm on Team Werewolf for this one. Big fangs coupled with hot-blooded animal instincts trumps the oversized molars of the nocturnal undead any day (or night for that matter).

Mark: Fighting each other, Richard, you might have a point. But in a fight against humans, I have to say I'm a vampire man. You can spot a werewolf a mile away, enough

time to run for cover. But vampires can be undetectable, until it's too late. They can seem perfectly normal until they open their mouths, kind of like members of the Tea Party. It really comes down to the relative dangers of brute force versus seduction, doesn't it?

RC: Perhaps so. Bella, the vampire groupie of Twilight, certainly finds the blood-suckers irresistible, but I'd suggest Jack Nicholson, as the hirsute gentleman in Wolf, is much more of a charmer than the vampires of Near Dark. They don't seduce as much as manipulate, taunt and slaughter their victims in the nastiest of ways.

MB: The vampires in Near Dark should be thrown out of the Vampire Union! But if you're using Jack Nicholson as an example of the urbane, more mature werewolf, let me submit Frank Langella in Dracula and George Hamilton in Love at First Bite as vampiric counterparts. The sadder but wiser vampire for me! But really, Richard, who would you rather meet in a dark alley? Kate Beckinsale or Benicio Del Toro? Case ... closed ... I think.

RC: Hmm... I'll take Kate, but remember Underworld? She played a beautiful vampire but who was she in love with? A werewolf. I rest my

case. In the battleground of love chalk one up for the werewolves. To answer our original question I checked with the authority — the internet — and found this: "In a fair fight (no weapons) a werewolf will destroy a vampire in a few seconds (unless the vampire is smart and tries to run away)." I rest my case.

MB: Ahh, but the vampire is nothing if not smart — way smarter than the werewolf — smart enough not to engage in a fight that he cannot win. But I'll concede to you on this one. I'll be in the corner ... sulking ... with Kate Beckinsale to give me solace.

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Mark S. Allen, CBS-TV

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Movie reviews

See it twice 🌐🌐🌐🌐 | See it now 🌐🌐🌐 | Worth watching 🌐🌐 | Yawn 🌐 | Don't bother 🌐

**The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1****Genre:** Drama**Director:** Bill Condon**Stars:** Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner

Maybe excessive punctuation in a title should serve as a warning, because any film that needs both a colon and a dash to announce itself is obviously taking itself too seriously. Lurching toward the conclusion of the Twilight series, the first half of

Breaking hits screens with a resounding thud, committing a sin the previous films had at least managed to avoid, despite their faults: The new film is incredibly boring. There's precedence for this two-book split, of course, as the Harry Potter folks divided their final installment into two massive films over the past year. But the effectiveness of their move only further highlights how unnecessary it is here. The events of the film's first

hour — planning the wedding, going through with the wedding, going on a honeymoon and Bella getting knocked up — could've taken 15 minutes in the hands of filmmakers less concerned with overindulging the series, diehard fans. But then, maybe they were right to do it this way, as there's clearly no other possible audience for this than Twihards who have already drunk the Kool-Aid.

● NED EHRBAR

**Happy Feet Two****Genre:** Animation**Director:** George Miller**Stars:** Elijah Wood, Robin Williams, Pink

🌐🌐🌐🌐

The original Happy Feet and its sequel don't look or feel like other movies for kids. Director George "Mad Max" Miller is a maxi-

malist director who opens up the usual kid flick palette with swooping cameras, wide-open vistas and beautifully effective 3D.

Featuring a cast of thousands — animated penguins as far as the eye can see and "krillions" of krill — Happy

Feet Two is made on a scale that would make Cecil B. DeMille proud.

It's also a step above most kid's movies. Joyful and beautiful to look at, it has more to say about life, love and the pursuit of happiness than most movies aimed at adults.

● RICHARD CROUSE



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Meeting Kermit

When The Muppets iconic star Kermit The Frog came to Toronto a few weeks ago for a media press conference hosted by Metro's own Richard Crouse, this scribe brought his four-year-old son Jack out to meet him. Sitting attentively in the front row amidst a sea of print, radio and TV elite, Jack — who had just

come from a press screening of the film — listened and watched wide eyed as Kermit fielded reporters' questions and engaged in all manner of witty banter. When Crouse called an end to the event, Jack moved closer, offering Kermit a picture he drew and hoping to shake the Frog's fuzzy hand. Kermit obliged, of course, carefully saddling up beside the

understandably starstruck lad, posing for a photo and a hug. It was the kind of moment a child — and a film loving parent — only dream of experiencing and if the look on Jack's face and the excited stories he now relates daily about that moment are any indication, the over four-decades-old Muppets franchise still has massive magic.



CHRIS ALEXANDER/METRO NEWS

Segel gets his puppet on

► Muppet master Jason Segel helps Kermit and friends put on a show to remind the world about the Muppets



CHRIS ALEXANDER
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

The man who had his own masturbation station in the laugh out loud bromance I Love You, Man, may seem like the least likely candidate to revive a legendary children's entertainment franchise, but that's exactly what charming multi-hyphenate actor/writer Jason Segel did with his latest picture, The Muppets.

Segel (who also wrote and starred in Forgetting Sarah Marshall, as well as serving as one of the leads on the smash hit sitcom How I Met Your Mother) penned the screenplay and stars as Gary, happy go lucky brother to melancholy muppet Walter, a felt-skinned kid who is obsessed with the late, lamented variety series The Muppet Show. When the siblings — along with Gary's fiancée Mary (Amy Adams) venture to Hollywood to find Kermit, Miss Piggy, Fozzie et al, they pal around with a legion of Henson heroes, run afoul of an evil oil baron and spearhead a comeback show.

"When I started this project," said Segel in Toronto recently to promote the film, "I made it mandatory that we had to acknowledge that the Muppets aren't as famous any-

more. And I'll be honest, there was some controversy, there was some ego involved there, but it was important. But it became the core of the film, that the Muppets have to put on a show to remind the world about them."

Over 270 Muppets make it onto the screen, including such obscure characters as the diabolical Uncle Deadly and the massive Sweetums. In fact the only Muppet created for the film is Walter, our entry point into the film. Originally, however, Walter was designed to be a very different character. "In my early drafts Walter was a puppet, my ventriloquist dummy and the secret is that he's actually alive," admits Segel. "But when the puppeteers got involved in the process, they said you never acknowledge that these character are puppets, ever. So instead, we made him my brother...and we never acknowledge it!"

The Muppets is ideal family fare, with enough antics and tunes to please the kids and plenty of humour to please the parents. In other words, it's a classic Muppets outing in every sense. "It was all about balancing levels of nostalgia ... and about making sure people just have a great time at the movies."

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MARK S. ALLEN, CBS-TV

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the twilight saga
breaking dawn
part 1

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MORE USELESS INFORMATION

SOUND CHECK



ALAN CROSS
SCENE
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Every episode of my new radio show has a segment called Useless Information.

Here's some stuff I've uncovered so far. I am not be responsible for how you use this material, so be careful.

Before he joined Guns 'N Roses, Axl Rose was so hard up for cash that he joined a UCLA medical study where he was paid \$8 an hour to smoke cigarettes.

The National Orchestra of Monaco has more members than its army.

An early member of The Offspring quit the band because he didn't see it going anywhere. Dr. James Liliya is now a respected gynecologist.

The saxophone in Lou Reed's Walk on the Wild Side was played by David Bowie's childhood music teacher.

One of Bob Marley's children played in the CFL. Rohan Marley had a career with the Ottawa Rough Riders.

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► Find out what Axl Rose did for cash before joining Guns 'N Roses

Charts is Tony Bennett. He did it earlier this year with his Duets II album at the age of 85.

Billie Joe Armstrong of Green Day had a cat named Zero. It died under mysterious circumstances involving a washing machine.

You know the "follow the bouncing ball" method of synchronizing song lyrics to singing in karaoke-like films? That was invented by Max Fleischer, the guy famous for animating the original Popeye.

Concerned about hidden backward messages on records, the state of California considered a law to outlaw messages that "can manipulate our behaviour without our knowledge or consent and turn us into disciples of the Antichrist." It didn't pass.

When U2's Bono was a kid, his nickname was Steinvic von Huyseman. He was later named after Bono Vox, a Dublin hearing aid store.

Before Rihanna recorded Umbrella, it was offered to Britney Spears and Mary J. Blige. They both turned it down.

Britney did choose to do ...Baby One More Time — but only after it was rejected by both the Backstreet Boys and TLC.

And still speaking of bad decisions, Billy Idol and Brian Ferry both turned down a chance to record Don't You Forget About Me. Even Simple Minds had to be talked into it by a record company.

ALAN IS THE HOST OF THE RADIO SHOW THE SECRET HISTORY OF ROCK. REACH HIM AT ALAN@ALANCROSS.CA



► LMFAO aren't lovers, they're fighters.

The F stands for fighting

► LMFAO reveals that a hit song was born out of scuffle with Mitt Romney

MARY ANN GEORGANTOPOULOS
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

They're famous lyric is "everyday we're shuffling," but maybe they should alter it to "everyday we're scuffling."

In an interview with The Washington Post, RedFoo said the song We Came Here to Party was inspired by his bandmate Sky Blu's argument with Mitt Romney. The incident happened in February 2010 when Sky Blue reclined his chair too far back into

Romney's space while on a Jet Blue flight. The lyrics of the song include:

"We came here to party (ROCK!)/We didn't come here to fight/ We both get a lot of attention in the press / You sellin' books and wanna be the president / We sellin' hooks and the flow is heaven sent/ We both hustlin' so why we tustlin'."

RedFoo told the Washington Post that after the incident made national news, "both parties were fighting. Mitt Romney's fan were attacking the LMFAO fans and the LMFAO fans were going back and forth."

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Raising Martha

► From Family Ties to Raising Hope — Martha Plimpton decides to step into granny panties as a series regular



Though she's popped up on a number of TV shows as a guest star — starting with *Family Ties* when she was 15 — film and theatre star

Martha Plimpton has never taken a job as a series regular until *Raising Hope* debuted last year.

With raves from critics and fans alike and an Emmy nomination under her belt, it's a decision Plimpton clearly isn't regretting.

She took a break from shooting the show's second season to chat with Metro.

You're obviously very young to be a grandmother.

I don't think it's that unusual, actually — in this country anyway — to be a

40-year-old grandmother. It happens all the time.

So in that regard, I don't feel that we are doing anything that revolutionary or weird. But, yeah. I guess you're right. It depends on the family, you know. We've all gotten past the

MATTHIAS CLAMER/FOX



► Martha Plimpton plays Virginia — a young grandma — in *Raising Hope*.



(left to right) Dave Cormier, Dealer Operations Manager, Chrysler Canada; Sam Moon, recording artist; Donna Halfpenny, Trade In Trade Up winner; Doug Wilson, Dealer Principal, Dartmouth Dodge

*Congratulations Donna
and enjoy your new ride!*

On behalf of **Chrysler Canada** and the **Atlantic Chrysler Dealers**, we would like to congratulate **Donna Halfpenny** of West Arichat NS for winning the grand prize of a **2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee** for the Trade In Trade Up Sales Event!

Also present was Sam Moon, a good friend of Donna's, to award her with his newly released CD to enjoy as she drives her prize home.



me as a grandma thing. That's, like, so 2010. We've moved on.

The show also deals with taking care of your aging parents, with Cloris Leachman, and with adult children still living at home.

This is the state of the world for many people. And there's nothing so unusual or weird about it, that many generations will be under the same roof because it's just not economically feasible not to be, you know? And that can be an opportunity for some really good comedy.

It's something that's more common in other parts of the world, I think, to care for your elders, you know, and we're sort of coming around to that in this country a little bit more now for a lot of different reasons, so in a way I feel like it's reflective of a lot of families, you know, what they have to deal with and everything.

And most families would only be so lucky or so tormented to have Cloris Leachman living under their roof with them.

How has the show changed in its second season?

Well, in Season One, we were establishing relationships with the family and who we all are and what this family's about, and in Season 2, we're also seeing a little bit more of their town and the people that populate this town and the

world of the Chances and their friends and their co-workers.

What else? We established a little bit more of the history with Virginia and her evil cousin, Delilah, played by Amy Sedaris, who is absolutely fantastic. And so we see a little bit more of Virginia's insecure, vulnerable side with that dynamic, which was nice.

It's fun to play that stuff. Hope is bigger, of course. She's a toddler now. The girls who play Hope, Baylie and Rylie, are now almost 2, and so we're growing with them. We're adjusting our storylines and accommodating their, you know, newfound capabilities as human beings.

Did you have any reservations about taking on a TV role, like the worry of getting bored with it after a while?

I can't say that I was anticipating being bored, but I think that's the fear that most actors have when they sign a long contract, because you're used to going from job to job, right? What may happen to some people in these situations is they might start to get neurotic and micromanage, you know what I mean? I feel like the less I try to manage which way things go and the more I just sort of enjoy the process and enjoy what the writers are doing — which is so good — the more fun I have as we go along. It's getting more and more fun for me.

Why Simpsons doesn't get old

► Show's 500th episode to air in February ► Metro chats with the man who made it all happen — Matt Groening



Despite a contract squabble earlier this year that might have brought an end to the Simpsons, Matt Groening's animated comedy is still kicking — and will be indefinitely, he says.

But how does a comedy stay fresh after 23 seasons? And what would an end look like? Series creator Groening says he doesn't plan to be around to find out.

Do you already know how the show is going to end? Do you have the last episode in your mind?

I think everybody who works on the show has a secret final episode in mind. I had my idea, but my idea already got used up 10 years ago.

However, we inadvertently, accidentally might have already animated one we thought might be the final episode, and that is our Christmas episode coming up, which shows the Simpsons in the future. Surprisingly enough, things don't work out well for Bart.

But it's a very sweet and touching episode as well, and there's a great scene of adult Bart and adult Lisa together talking about their family, in the tree house.

They had come home for the holidays. They're up in Bart's tree house, and they're drunk, which you've never been able to do.

What's the secret to keeping a show going for more than 20 years?

I think the Simpsons is basically a forum for different kinds of comedy. It's not

any one kind of comedy. It started out I think, in a more limited way, but now we do everything.

We tried different kinds

of jokes and different styles, and we parody different kinds of animation styles, and our range of references go from truly ob-

scure literary references to the most dumb, broad comedy that you can imagine. We aren't thinking about the audience so

much as about surprising ourselves. As long as we surprise ourselves, we will continue to surprise the audience.



► Series creator Matt Groening shares a tender moment with the family.

TV picks

GETTY IMAGES



► Jason Segel

Segel hosts SNL

FLORENCE AND THE MACHINE TO PERFORM. Will Kermit make a cameo on Saturday Night Live? His co-star in the new movie The Muppets, Jason Segel, hosts Saturday's

instalment of SNL, so perhaps the world's most famous frog will join him in a sketch. (NBC, Global)

More Bieber

HANGIN' WITH THE BEST.

Justin Bieber is slated to perform at the 2011 American Music Awards, airing live from Los Angeles on Sunday. Other acts scheduled to sing include Katy Perry, Marc Anthony, Christina Aguilera, Kelly Clarkson, Chris Brown and Mary J. Blige. The hosts are Nicki Minaj and Pitbull. (ABC, CTV)

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Kristin Cavallari takes on the Kardashians

► Reality star Cavallari accuses famous family of spreading false rumours

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON

SCENE@METRONews.CA



Oh, snap! I've never been a super fan of Kristin Cavallari as, really, I'm not too sure what there is to be impressed by.

But I might have a change of heart as she totally called out the Kardashians on The Billy Bush Show on Wednesday.

Here's the backstory: Life & Style is running a story that Scott Disick, the boyfriend and baby daddy



► Kristin Cavallari

of Kourtney Kardashian, fooled around with Cavallari before hooking up with Kourtney.

Kristin says this is "100 per cent not true" and accused the Kardashians of

making news where there is none.

(The Kardashians flaming gossip rumours? Never!)

"What convenient timing for them. With their

show premiering next week and with everything that's going on for Kim, I feel like they're trying to take the heat off her," she told Bush.

"When there's a big story like that, they always call you and ask if you want to comment and clearly none of them denied it, so it's very — it's really disrespectful to me. ... I'm in a committed relationship. It's disrespectful to me and Jay (Cutler) and I think it just says a lot about their character."

Um, everything that has happened in the past year with the Kardashians says a lot about their character, don't you think?

Demi Moore and Ashton are done



► Ashton Kutcher and Demi Moore.

Demi Moore is ending her marriage to Ashton Kutcher.

The 49-year-old actress announced her divorce plans to The Associated Press Thursday, saying she's doing it with "great sadness and a heavy heart."

She said that "as a woman, a mother and a wife, there are certain values and vows that I hold sacred, and it is in this spirit

that I have chosen to move forward with my life."

Moore adds that it's a trying time for her and her family, so she asked for people to respect her privacy.

Moore and Kutcher were wed in September 2005. The couple's relationship became tabloid fodder in recent months as rumours swirled about Kutcher's alleged infidelity.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The Situation files 'The Lawsuit'

Two months after Abercrombie & Fitch publicly asked him to stop wearing their clothes, Jersey Shore star Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino is fighting back, suing the retailer for using his trademarked slogans without permission, according to E! News.

"As a result of (Aber-

crombie & Fitch's) publicity campaign, (the retailer) profited off of the use of a false affiliation with Sorrentino," his legal team says. "It has wrongly used Sorrentino's name, image and likeness for advertising purposes in violation of applicable law."

Sorrentino is seeking \$1 million in royalties and an additional \$3 million in damages, and he reportedly wants a jury trial.

● METRO



Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino



Mo' Yeater problems

Justin Bieber's problems might not be going away as fast as he'd hoped, as reports have surfaced that Mariah Yeater is not actually dropping her paternity suit, having found new lawyers to represent her. But first she needs to do some clean-up work.

TMZ has published text messages Yeater reportedly sent to a friend suggesting her baby's father is someone other than Bieber. "pleeeeee ERASE ALL MESSAGES from my mom where she says Tristyn is Robbies Son," one message reads, while a second seems far more incriminating: "Ill kick u when we get paid im trusting you pleeeeee."

Her "friends" were fiscally savvy; they realized TMZ would pay for text messages before Yeater could. ● METRO

Put on your baker's hat

- ◆ Forget running out to the bakery next time you want fresh bread
- ◆ These recipes offer three variations so you can keep on baking

DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONOVS.CA



The appeal of quick breads isn't merely the ease, though you have to love any baked good that is no more complicated than mixing a bunch of things together, then baking.

But it also is the adaptability and flexibility of these recipes that have earned them such a coveted place in the home kitchen. They can be flavoured with nearly any combination of ingredients, from sweet all the way to savoury and spicy.

They also can be baked in numerous styles — loaves large or small, as muffins, even simply as muffin tops (if you have the right pan).

To help get you baking this fall, here are two basic quick bread base recipes; one savoury and one sweet. Each recipe includes suggested flavourings — easy ways to take a basic bread and turn it into so much more.

Savoury Quick Bread Preparation:

- 1 Heat oven to 180 C (350 F). Coat a loaf or muffin pan with cooking spray.



► This recipe makes 1 loaf or 12 muffins.

- 2 In a large bowl, whisk together flour, cornmeal, baking powder, salt and sugar. In another bowl, mix together sour cream, butter, eggs, mashed potato and the mix-ins of your choice. Add potato-sour cream mixture to flour mixture and mix just until combined.

- 3 For loaf, spread batter into prepared pan. Cook until a wooden skewer inserted at the centre comes out clean, 60 minutes. For muffins, spoon batter into prepared tins and bake 20 minutes. Let cool for 10 minutes in pan, then turn out onto a cooling rack. Let loaf cool fully before cutting. **EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL**

Ingredients:

- 500 ml (2 cups) all-purpose flour
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) cornmeal
- 12 ml (2 1/2 tsp) baking powder
- 5 ml (1 tsp) salt
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) sugar
- 250 ml (1 cup) sour cream
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) melted butter
- 2 eggs
- 250 ml (1 cup) cooked, mashed potato (unseasoned)
- Mix-ins (see fact box)

HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA /THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Variations

- **Southwestern**
125 ml (1/2 cup) diced cooked bacon, 50 ml (1/4 cup) cooked diced green pepper, 125 ml (1/2 cup) cooked diced onion, 15 ml (1 tbsp) diced jalapeno
- **Olive-herb**
175 ml (3/4 cup) chopped olives, 125 ml (1/2 cup) grated Parmesan, 30 ml (2 tbsp) chopped capers, 15 ml (1 tbsp) chopped fresh thyme, 15 ml (1 tbsp) chopped fresh rosemary
- **Blue cheese walnut**
50 ml (1/4 cup) diced roasted red pepper, 125 ml (1/2 cup) toasted chopped walnuts, 125 ml (1/2 cup) crumbled blue cheese, 2 ml (1/2 tsp) black pepper

Falling for a hint of sweet

PETER ROCKWELL
LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA
TWITTER: @THEREALWINEGUY

Whoever thought up raking leaves needs a good talking to. Not that I couldn't use the exercise, it's just that the whole exertion thing really detracts from the enjoyment of my favourite time of year.

I love fall, and even though mid-November can be a bit dreary, this calm before the pre-Christmas storm is a perfect opportunity to light that first fire of the season and get comfy with a glass or two of red wine.

When the weather outside starts to chill, reds — especially those with a good balance of tannin and bright berry fruit — make for fine imbibing with or without food. Find one with an accent of residual sugar and you've got a cocktail tippie that easily overshadows the appeal of a pint of ale or fancy mixed drink.

One of the latest new wave wines that isn't afraid to throw around a bit of sweetness is Apothic Red 2009 Wine-maker's Blend (\$14.99 - \$17.48). Made by E & J Gallo, it's a swirling mix of syrah, zinfandel and merlot that's smooth and juicy with a finale of big berry fruit.

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● METRO



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Giving ham a new identity

▶ A bit of bourbon goes a long way in giving this familiar meat new life

Preparation:

1 Coat stoneware of a 5-L (20 cups) slow cooker with non-stick cooking spray. Add ham, cut side up. In bowl, combine ap-

ple juice, brown sugar, raisins, cinnamon and pepper flakes; stir well. Pour mixture evenly over ham. Cover; cook on Low for 9 to 10 hours or on High for 4 1/2 to 5 hours.

Add cherries 30 minutes before end of cooking time.

2 Transfer ham to cutting board. Let stand 15 mins before slicing.

3 Pour cooking liquid into measuring cup and let stand 5 mins. Skim and discard excess fat. Return cooking liquid to slow cooker.

Ham in Bourbon Sauce



▶ This recipe serves 10 – perfect for entertaining.

4 Turn slow cooker to High. In bowl, whisk cornstarch and bourbon until cornstarch is dissolved. Stir into cooking liquid. Cover; cook on High 15 mins. until thickened. Serve sauce over

sliced ham.
EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. (EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)/THE CANADIAN PRESS/CROCK-POT

Ingredients:

- 2.5 kg (6 lb) bone-in ham, butt portion
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) apple juice
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) packed

- dark brown sugar
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) raisins
- 5 ml (1 tsp) cinnamon
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) red pepper flakes
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) dry cherries
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) cornstarch
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) bourbon

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Injuries don't hurt Frk's rank

Martin Frk hasn't played a game all season, but his draft stock appears to be holding strong.

Central Scouting released its preliminary rankings for next June's NHL draft and pegged the 18-year-old right-winger as the QMJHL's second best prospect.

Russian star Mikhail Grigorenko of the Quebec Remparts grabbed top spot on the list. He is tied for fourth in QMJHL scoring with 37 points in 24 games.

Frk suffered a concussion during a pre-season game in August and hasn't played since. He was fourth among QMJHL rookies last season with 22 goals and 28 assists for 50 points in 62 games.

Fellow Mooseheads forward Luca Ciampini is ranked 25th among 25 players on the list, while Andrew Ryan, out with a broken ankle, was not ranked because of "limited viewing."

Three Halifax natives were also recognized: Gatineau Olympiques forward Taylor Burke (ninth), Rimouski Oceanic forward Liam O'Brien (15th) and Bathurst Titan goalie Jacob Brennan (fifth among QMJHL goaltenders).

Burke is sixth in Olympiques scoring with five goals and nine assists for 14 points in 18 games; O'Brien has eight points in 25 games; and Brennan has started 10 games and has a 3.97 goals-against average.

● MATTHEW WUEST



► Mooseheads captain Cameron Critchlow is one of Halifax's hottest scorers right now with four goals and six assists in his past seven games.

Strength in numbers

► Mooseheads embark on first 'three-in-three' road trip of season ► Coach will spread out ice time as much as possible to save energy for Sunday



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

By the time Sunday rolls around, the Halifax Mooseheads could be a tired bunch.

With their first three-games-in-three-days road trip kicking off on Friday at 8 p.m. against the Drummondville Voltigeurs, the Mooseheads' endurance will be tested on Saturday at 8 p.m. against the Quebec Remparts and Sunday at 5 p.m. against the Rimouski Oceanic.

Rolling four lines, as head coach Dominique

Ducharme has tried to do all season, will be paramount.

"We want to be aggressive, we want to be active, we want to be on the puck and applying pressure, and it takes a lot out of our players," Ducharme said. "As much as possible, we use everyone in building that momentum. It helps us keep our energy level high. Obviously that's something we're going to need this weekend, playing three in three."

The Mooseheads, seventh overall with a 13-6-2 record, have gone 1-1-2 in their last four and lost their

honourable mention in the Canadian Hockey League top 10 ranking.

While the Voltigeurs are slightly below .500 at 11-12-2 record, the Remparts are ranked fourth in the country at 17-4-3 while the Oceanic are sixth overall at 15-11.

"The first two is nothing different for our guys, but that third game, that one will be one to manage physically and mentally in a different way than the two other games," Ducharme said. "When we get there, we'll see where our energy level is and maybe we'll adjust."

All booked up

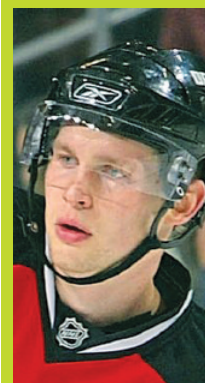
With home games next Thursday and Friday against the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles and P.E.I. Rocket, the Mooseheads are actually playing five games in eight days.

► Will rookie goalie Zach Fucile start all five or will midget call-up Marc-Olivier Daigle make his QMJHL debut? Visit the Q Files blog at metronews.ca/qfiles for the story.

4

sports

Quoted



FORMER HALIFAX MOOSEHEADS FORWARD PETR VRANA IS LIGHTING IT UP IN THE KONTINENTAL HOCKEY LEAGUE. THE 26-YEAR-OLD FORMER NEW JERSEY DEVIL HAS 25 POINTS IN 22 GAMES WITH AMUR KAHBAROVSK AND IS TIED FOR SECOND IN LEAGUE SCORING. HE LAST PLAYED IN THE NHL IN 2008-09.

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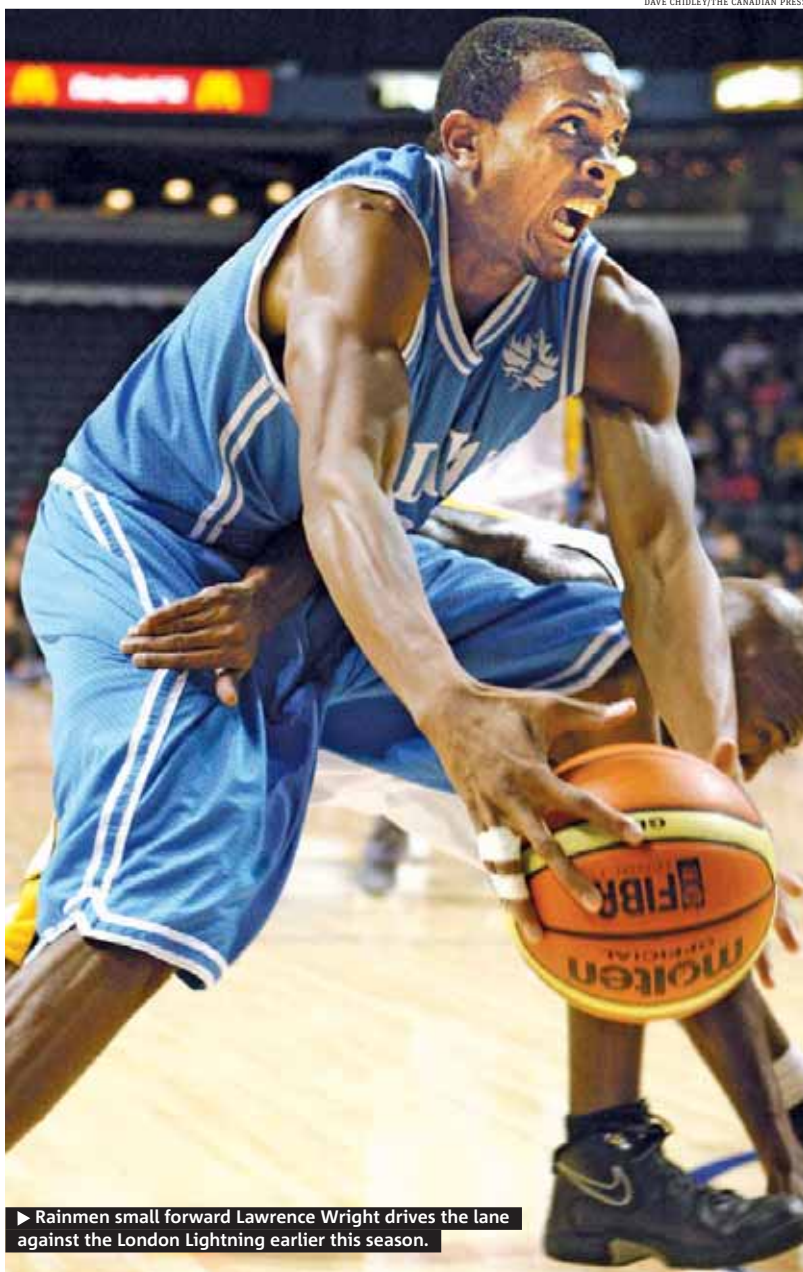
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Claros still questioning defence



► Rainmen small forward Lawrence Wright drives the lane against the London Lightning earlier this season.

► Rainmen look to improve on 2-2 record in Halifax Friday ► Saint John Mill Rats visit Metro Centre at 7 p.m.



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

Josep (Pep) Claros wants the Halifax Rainmen to have a short memory. So those back-to-back victories they were feeling so good about? "We've got to forget those as soon as possible," said the Rainmen's head coach.

Although the Rainmen allowed just 95 and 93 points in wins over the Moncton Miracles and Summerside Storm last weekend, Claros is apparently far from satisfied with his team's defensive effort and is looking for improvement against the Saint John Mill Rats on Friday night at 7 p.m. at the Metro Centre.

"We made so many mistakes in terms of rotation, in terms of organizing areas where we have to trap," he said. "We have to be better."

The Rainmen, whose average of 103.8 points allowed is second worst in the National Basketball League of Canada, have made a flurry of personnel moves over the past week and a half, all designed to improve the team's energy and defensive prowess.

But the four new faces — Oreon Green, Richard Delk, Tyrone Levett and Stevy Worah-Ozimo — can't change things overnight, Claros said.

"It takes time for them to understand what we want to do on defence," Claros said. "Of course on

Robinson a no go vs. Mill Rats

One of the Rainmen's most talented players will remain sidelined this weekend.

Eddie Robinson, a six-foot-eight forward who averaged 7.0 points per game during a five-year NBA career, has yet to play a game because of a hamstring injury. He won't play Friday against the Mill Rats but could be back on Nov. 27 against the Oshawa Power.

"We're being very careful," said head coach Josep (Pep) Claros. "It's very, very risky now so we're really taking care of it. He's an important player."

● METRO

offence too, but defence is my priority."

The Mill Rats' record is an uninspiring 2-3, but they're the only NBL Canada team that has beaten the powerful London Lightning.

Claros said he's seen positive signs in practice this week and hopes it carries over after opening tip-off on Friday.

"We have an opportunity to show how good we are ... or how far we are from what I expect," Claros said.



No charges for Chara in Montreal

After eight months, the police case has been officially closed on Boston Bruins captain Zdeno Chara's devastating hit on the Montreal Canadiens' Max Pacioretty.

There will be no criminal charges laid over the on-ice incident last March.

The hulking defenceman shoved the young Canadiens forward into a stanchion, breaking a vertebra and ending his season in an act that prompted a national debate on violence in hockey.

In a statement released Thursday, Quebec's director of criminal prosecutions said it did not believe it had a solid case.

"After carefully examining all the information provided in this affair, the (office) is not reasonably convinced it could establish evidence of guilt," the provincial prosecutors' office said.

Chara received a game misconduct but no further suspension from the NHL, and the ensuing uproar in Montreal prompted law enforcement to take a closer look at the case.

Montreal police met with various witnesses and concluded their investigation in August after meeting with Chara himself.

Pacioretty had been critical of the NHL's non-suspension, but even he had called the police involvement unnecessary. He has since recovered and returned to play this season.

The investigation was delayed because police held off on interviewing Chara during the Bruins' lengthy championship run last spring. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Astros' sale sparks 'historical' day for baseball

Baseball will be making major changes in the next two years — adding two teams to the playoffs, moving the Houston Astros to the American League and extending interleague play to September.

The expanded playoffs could come as early as next year. That will put 10 teams in the post-season, requiring a new wild-card playoff round that probably will be one game, winner take all.

The altered playoff structure is subject to an agreement on a new labour contract with the players' association, which is expected before the current deal expires Dec. 11.

"We believe after a lot of study and a lot of thought that the addition of two wild cards will really help us in the long run," said commissioner Bud Selig, who called it a "historical" morning.

New model

The changes will put one-third of the baseball's 30 teams in the post-season.

► In the NFL, 12 of 32 teams make the playoffs. In the NBA and NHL, 16 of 30 teams advance.

Baseball began its playoff system in 1969 and doubled the playoff teams to eight in

1994.

Selig acknowledged that additional wild-card teams would have eliminated the drama on the final night of this season, when Tampa Bay overtook Boston and St. Louis moved past Atlanta.

"You don't do things for one year. You do things for a long period of time," Selig said.

As a condition for approving the reported \$615 million US sale of the Astros

from Drayton McLane to Jim Crane, the Astros agreed to shift from the NL Central to the AL West as soon as 2013, giving each league 15 teams.

With an odd number of teams in each league, there will be interleague play from April through September. Since interleague games began in 1997, they had been concentrated around May and late-June.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Can Ticats pen feel-good Final chapter?

CFL EXTRA POINTS

DAN TOTH

TORONTO@METRONEWS.CA



The Hamilton Tiger Cats can't possibly pull off another upset like the one we witnessed last Sunday in Montreal, can they?

Hamilton was the most schizophrenic team in the CFL this season, surprising even themselves by knocking off the two-time defending Grey Cup champs in the East semifinal.

The trick now is to repeat the performance Sunday in a defensive battle in Winnipeg. The Ticats defence will need to get to Bombers quarterback Buck Pierce, find a way to stop Winnipeg's running game, and create some turnovers. Is that asking too much?

The vaunted Bombers defence, which coined the term "Swagerville" and incensed opponents across Canada this season, will have its hands full stopping Tiger-Cats back Avon Cobourne but has a track



► Ticats quarterbacks Kevin Glenn, left, and Quinton Porter warm up at practice in Hamilton on Thursday.

record to back up their boasts.

The Blue Bomber defence allowed the fewest first downs, fewest offensive yards, tied for the lead with the most pass interceptions and posted the most quarterback sacks.

Winnipeg's three wins over Hamilton this season makes them a sig-

nificant favourite in the East final, although the Tabbies proved in Montreal they can't be taken lightly.

Our pick: Winnipeg by 3

Eskimos vs. Lions: Jerome Messam's absence from Sunday's West final might say more about his contribution to the Edmonton Eskimos this season than if the exciting running back could play in this playoff showdown. Messam tore the meniscus in his left knee in last weekend's win over Calgary and is out for the season, possibly killing the Eskies' chances of upsetting the heavily favoured B.C. Lions.

Messam quieted his many crit-

ics this season by becoming the first Canadian in more than a decade to rush for 1,000 yards and his loss is an obvious blow to the Eskimos' chances.

Backups Calvin McCarty and Hugh Charles don't have Messam's running ability. Messam kept defences honest, buying time for Eskimos quarterback Ricky Ray

to get the passing game in gear, which is still the key to Edmonton's offence.

Our pick: B.C. by 6

Jyles not top of list in Argos' QB plans: Jim Barker is wearing his best poker face, but he's not fooling anyone.

Barker is telling everyone who'll listen that he intends to resign marginally talented backup quarterback Steven Jyles as the Toronto Argos starter next season.

The reality is Barker's Argos are desperate for a proven winner on offence who can also sell tickets and Calgary QB Henry Burris is a perfect fit in both categories.

At the same time, it's hard to believe the Stampeders will punt the CFL's 2010 Most Outstanding Player, but it comes down to a numbers game — the zeroes on Burris's paycheck.

At a reported \$350,000-\$400,000 per season, Burris is easily the highest player on the Stamps and his departure will clear up at least \$200,000 of cap space for 2012. With only one team in dire need of a QB, Calgary is handcuffed in a possible trade and Barker's Bluff doesn't improve their chances of getting fair market value.



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Main sale - 10 am

Including the collection of Shirley & Jack Jackson
and items from a Chester summer home.
Including 19th & 20th century bisque dolls (30), misc. early
teddy bears (30), misc. pine furniture, 3 Maud Lewis, 1 Joe
Norris, a good Montreal miniature, toys, furniture, hooked
mats, oriental rugs, signed collectible hockey sticks, china,
glass, housewares, misc. collectibles, George Washburn
guitar, etc.
850 lots total

See pictures on line Sat, November 12th at www.crowther-brayley.com 902-423-3226



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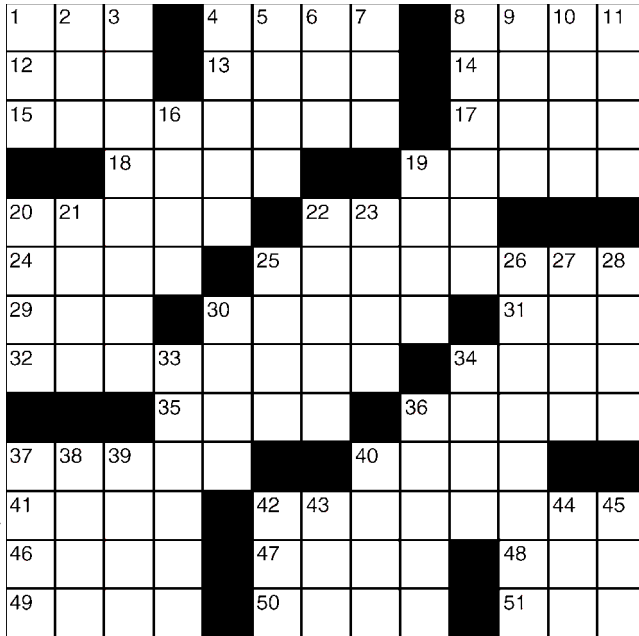
Crossword

Across

1 Moment
4 Secondhand
8 Tousele
12 401(k) alternative
13 Nevada city
14 Exam format
15 Utensil made from a gourd shell
17 Data, for short
18 Open slightly
19 Surround
20 Jordan's capital
22 Categorize
24 Wheedle
25 Aerosol vessel
29 Pitch
30 Corn
31 Consumed
32 Thick-bladed dagger
34 Turn the soil
35 Don Juan's mother
36 Soil samples rich in clay
37 Big glitch
40 Throat clearer
41 Grown-up nits
42 Poison ivy aid
46 Culture medium
47 Burden
48 Sawbuck
49 Anything but that
50 Crimson Tide school
51 Nevertheless

Down

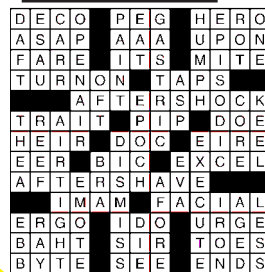
1 (Uncorrected)
2 Mound stat
3 Trattoria dish
4 City-related
5 Burn somewhat
6 Type measures



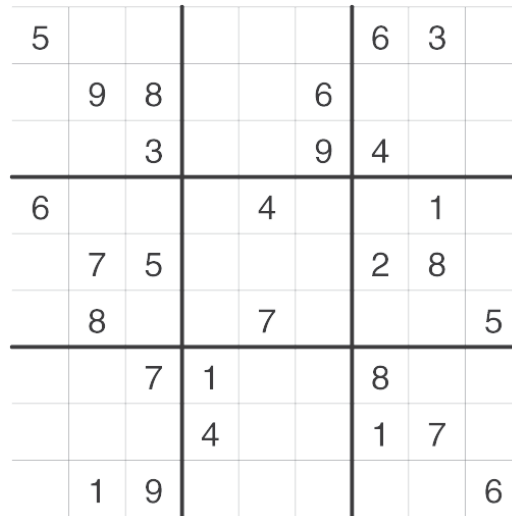
7 Homer's interjection
8 Half
9 Coffee shop vessels
10 Well-protected
11 Coin aperture
16 Trojan War hero
19 Highland hillside
20 New Testament book
21 Castle protection
22 Olympic swimming legend Mark
23 Rice-shaped pasta
25 Fill fully
26 Dire situation
27 Fermi's bit
28 11 o'clock broadcast
30 Carte
33 Longtime convicts
34 Verse
36 Tibet's capital
37 Venetian blind part
38 In the offing
39 Exotic berry
40 Grad
42 Stocky horse
43 Santa —winds
44 Born
45 Tolkien char-

acter

► Thursday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Thursday's answer ►

8	9	2	4	7	3	1	6	5
3	5	6	2	8	1	7	9	4
4	7	1	5	6	9	2	3	8
1	4	8	6	9	7	5	2	3
7	2	5	3	4	8	9	1	6
6	3	9	1	5	2	8	4	7
2	6	3	8	1	5	4	7	9
5	1	7	9	3	4	6	8	2
9	8	4	7	2	6	3	5	1

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Nyx, You still live in my heart. Pl. don't be shy to say hi, hug or kiss when you see me:-)

ADONIS

To the girl in the fox mask, from the moment i saw you with your fox mask on i knew you were the one. i've only known you for two weeks and i only have four weeks left in training to tell you how i really feel. You're the only reason i can get out of bed at 6:30 and be in a good mood for work.

SPEARS

Angel from Austria, I wish I could and would spend more time with - we should go on a date for our sixth, you are all I need and seek, a kiss from my lips to your cheek, think of me when you go back and things look bleak.

LITTLE JESSE

Today's horoscope

♈ **Aries** March 21-April 20 Use your charm to get what you need today — but make sure what you need is good for other people too.

♉ **Taurus** April 21-May 21 Be on your guard and make sure you don't fall for any misinformation.

♊ **Gemini** May 22-June 21 You are worrying too much, but if it bothers you that much, get it checked out by an expert.

♋ **Cancer** June 22-July 22 Romantically this is a time of great opportunity, so don't be shy.

♌ **Leo** July 23-Aug. 23 If there is a project you still have not finished you might as well forget it.

♍ **Virgo** Aug. 24-Sept. 22 Don't sit at home waiting for life to come to you — go out and meet it halfway.

♎ **Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If you let things drift or let other people call the shots you could find yourself out of touch and maybe out of pocket too.

♏ **Scorpio** Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Make the most of your chances over the next few days.

♐ **Sagittarius** Nov. 23-Dec. 21 There are still a number of important loose ends that need to be tied up.

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♊ **Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 20

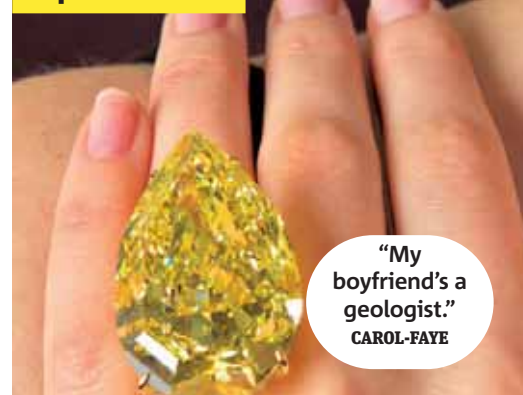
Whatever extraordinary ideas pop into your head over the next 24 hours you must follow them through to their conclusion.

♋ **Aquarius** Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Act now. Not tomorrow or next week or the week after that but now, this very minute.

♋ **Pisces** Feb. 19-March 20. Your confidence has been high over the past few weeks but already you can sense that a more challenging phase will soon be upon you. That's OK. You need to be pushed and the planets always push you in the right direction. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest



"My boyfriend's a geologist."
CAROL-FAYE



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LOOK AGAIN SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES IN THESE TWO IMAGES.

Portland, Maine – The 2012 Chevrolet Equinox is out running a few errands in the city. It's equipped with all-wheel drive, fantastic storage capacity, incredible fuel-efficiency and segment-leading safety. In fact, it's an IIHS Top Safety Pick. Which makes it perfect for those who enjoy crossing things off their list.

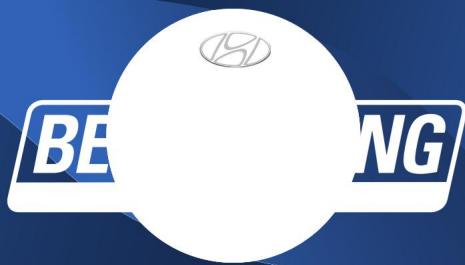


1. Changed colour of street sign 2. Doubled the blue frame in the bottom left window 3. Added sign to telephone pole left of the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 4. Removed flower bed from top window sill 5. Added manhole below the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 6. Added orange reflector onto the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 7. Filled in bottom frame of the corner window 8. Removed one-way sign 9. Changed colour of fire hydrant 10. Removed horizontal brace from roof of the building



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GLS model shown



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